Numb. 20.

Heraclitus Ridens:

A T

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, June the 14th. 1681.

Jeſt. OH brave *true Proteſtants!* What? not one Papiſt in all *London?* this if is when the *Sober Party* are returned to ſerve in Juries, they clear the Decks to ſome purpoſe. Now for our old Friend *Diogenes*, that Cunning Curr of a Philoſopher, with his Lanthorn and Candle, to go a Papiſt-hunting by day-light.

Earn. Why all this Tranſport and Extaſie, what have you found the Philoſophers ſtone, or the Square of the Circle; what's the matter, man?

Jeſt. No, it is no *finding* matter I aſſure you, it is becauſe there is never a red Letter to be found in the Alphabet.

Earn. What d'ye mean?

Jeſt. I mean, that among all the Preſentments there cannot be found one Preſentment, as 'tis reported, againſt a Papiſt for not coming to Church.

Earn. You mean ſome Perſons cannot *find* it in their hearts, is not that it? Why, what would you have them do, whip the Nun for the Friers fault; Diſſenters are Recuſants in this point themſelves, and can you be ſo ſilly to think they will pull an old Houſe over their own heads, or make a Rod for their own Bumfiddles?

Jeſt. Nay I confeſs I thought we ſhould at laſt *find* them Popiſhly affected, at leaſt, for all their cunning, for I have ever obſerved that as the Papiſt carries in his pocket a little thing tied to a Necklace which he calls a *Crucifix*, ſo your Fanatick carries a great Idol about him which he worſhips, which is called a *Croſs-grain.*

Earn. Right, *Roger*, Right. Do but obſerve how this Zeal of theirs againſt Papiſts and Popery is dwindled ſince his Majeſty by his late Gracious Declaration has aſſured his People in the Royal Word of a King, that he will endeavour the extirpation of Popery.

Jeſt. What? then they are reſolved that the King and they will never ſet their Horſes together.

Earn. So it ſeems.

Jeſt. But how will they get a Diſpenſation from their Oaths, that *they ſhall true preſentment make without fear, favour, or affection, So help them God?*

Earn. Oh! Perjury in ſuch a caſe, is not half ſo great a ſin as Petit Larceny.

Jeſt. I warrant you every one of theſe has Mr. *Thief* in his Book, and if he catch him lifting a yard of threepeny Ribband he muſt pay the whole ſcore, or elſe be ſwing'd about the Pigmarket, but a man may ſteal a hundred Yards of Perjury and yet keep a good Conſcience; nay be perjur'd for Conſcience ſake.

Earn. They make a meer Pope of their Conſciences, every one of them has one in his Belly, to diſpence with Oaths, and abſolve them of their Obedience to humane Laws; do not we ſee it daily?

Jeſt. Well, it will never be happy, till theſe little Popes, who ſtand ſo ſtifly for their own Supremacy, be ſent packing after the great Pope.

Earn. Ay, when we ſee that, then we ſhall ſee the very Foundation, and hopes of Popery overthrown.

Jeſt. But I hope we ſhall ſee Juries ere long that will endeavour to aſſiſt his Majeſty in the extirpation of Popery.

Earn. I'le tell you more of my mind after *Midſummer-moon* is over, for upon that it will depend.

Jeſt. You are better than a Witch I find, you can gueſs Eggs if you ſee the ſhells.

Earn. Well Sir, You are very pleaſant upon the matter, but I think you ſhould do better to perſuade your Friends to be diligent and induſtrious to chuſe ſuch Officers as may help us to Juries that will value an Oath, and preſent both Papiſts and all other Recuſants, and really be aſſiſtant to the King, the Laws and Government in the extirpation of Popery.

Jeſt. I confeſs the *Loyal Party* have been very apt to be leſs active than the other, whoſe Mercury makes them reſtleſs and indefatigable, but I'le try if I can make them ſtir their ſtumps a little better, it is not talking about the matter will do the work.

Earn. Don't you ſee how *Dick Janeway* plies it both againſt Wind and Tide, and what pains he takes to leſſen the *Loyal Addreſſes.*

Jeſt. That is all by the way of *Diſſenters Loyalty*, which goes to the Tune of *the clean contrary way.*

Earn. You may now ſee what all their guilded ſtories mean, when to profeſs *ſincere Loyalty* to his Majeſties Perſon and Government, to give him humble thanks for his Gracious Promiſes in his Declaration, that he will *Extirpate Popery, Govern by Law, have frequent Parliaments*, &c. is now become perfect Toryiſm, Tantivieiſm and *tantum non Abhorriſm.*

Jeſt. Nay, they are ſuch a ſort of Proteſtants, that bating the Name, to which they are a reproach,

proach, it would puzzle a Wiſe man to diſtinguiſh them from Papiſts.

Earn. If they make ſuch Vinegar Faces at the Loyal Subjects giving his Majeſty a few good words, and grumble, and ſnap and ſnarl at this rate, what would they do if it ſhould be ſeconded by a voluntary preſent of good hard Gold, to enable his Majeſty to ſupport his Government?

Jeſt. They would cry out that the Nation was undone, that it was *French Gold*, *Arbitrary Government*, *Popery*, *and diſuniting of Proteſtants*; for you muſt know ſo is every thing which they do not like.

Earn. Ay without doubt that would be the leaſt, don't you obſerve how their new Journey man *Dick* twits the two Gentlemen that were Members of the laſt Parliament for *Surrey*, for ſetting their hands to the Addreſs from that County.

Jeſt. Yes, the *impartial Proteſtant Mercury* does as good as call them *Renegades*; *It is a thing*, ſays he, *mightily talk'd of; ſince they appeared eminently valorous and active in the Houſe of Commons.*

Earn. So then, according to the ſenſe of theſe mighty Talkers, to appear valorous and active in the Houſe of Commons, and to ſign a paper of Thanks to his Majeſty for his Gracious Declaration, I find in the Opinion of theſe Proteſtant Mercury-men, are things altogether inconſiſtent, matters of admiration and wonder, and to be *mightily talk'd of*; this too I warrant you is by the way of *Uniting Proteſtants.*

Jeſt. Yes, very pretty; to have men who have been valorous and active in the Houſe of Commons, do any thing that looks like returning to their Duty, and ſhewing a Zeal for his Majeſties Perſon and Government; the Extirpation of Popery, or the preſervation of the Monarchy, is a *thing to be mightily talked of.*

Earn. Well, we are obliged I find more to the Zeal of the Party than to their Honeſty for theſe Diſcoveries of their Temper.

Jeſt. Nay, Mr. *Impartial* had e'en as good put up his Pipes, as Fiddle the Pigs ſuch Dances as theſe, one may ſay of *Dicks* Proſe and *Comus*'s Poetry, *Nil refert tales verſus quâ voce legantur.* Did you ever ſee ſuch a Pancake of a Pindarique as the *Supplication?*

Earn. What do you trouble your head about it, don't you know the Proverbs, *like Lips*, *like Lettuce*, A Six—— s' *as good for a Sow as a Pancake.*

Jeſt. Come, let's leave them to their Trade and go to ours.

Earn. A match if it hold.

Quere 1. Whether all the Zeal, care, pains and induſtry that hath been ſo viſibly manifeſted to ſave *Sam. Harris*, the diſperſer of *Treaſon in Grain*, are greater teſtimonies of ſome mens Charity to ſave the Reputation of a Party, or of the tenderneſs of their Conſciences in point of the preſervation of his Majeſties Sacred Perſon and Government?

2. Whether, to ſay of the Perſon that found the Libel in *Harris*'s pocket, *Good People, have a care of that Fellow he will put Libels in your pockets*, be not a vilifying of the Kings Evidence, and ſtifling the Plot againſt his Majeſties Perſon, Life and Government, and whether ſome perſons are Action-free for the ſame Offence, and others not?

3. Whether it is not worthy the Conſideration of all ſober and Loyal Citizens, that it is both their Duty and their Intereſt to chuſe ſuch Officers as are of known Loyalty and integrity to his Majeſty and the Eſtabliſhed Government both in Church and State, and whether any known Diſſenters or favourers of them can be eſteemed ſuch?

4. Whether the Loyal Apprentices by addreſſing their thanks to his Majeſty for his Gracious Declaration, will not make ſome attonement for the miſchiefs ſome of their Maſters did his Father, when they obtained their freedoms by running from their Indentures into the Earl of *Eſſex*'s Army, and whether theſe Young men do not better deſerve the Freedom of the City.

5. Whether it is not the great Intereſt of this Great City, to endeavour in all things to comply with his Majeſty, under whoſe gracious Government and happy Conduct they have in this laſt twenty Years of his auſpicious Reign, notwithſtanding the Calamities of Fire and War advanced more in Trade, Wealth, and Glory than in two hundred Years before; and whether a good underſtanding betwixt his Majeſty and this City being the certain way to continue and increaſe their happineſs, thoſe who out of Pride and Faction oppoſe and hinder it, ought not to be eſteemed Enemies to the proſperity of the City?

6. Whether if the Loyal Nobility, Gentry and Citizens followed the Example of the Diſſenters who will Trade with none but thoſe of their own Trade in Religion without abſolute neceſſity, and put it in practice, we ſhould not have fewer Fanaticks, and they leſs Money to boaſt on; and whether it is policy to enrich and encourage thoſe, who declare themſelves no Friends, while they term their own *Party the Godly*, and all others the Wicked, and think it no ſin eſpecially in a way of Trade to Rob and ſpoil the *Egyptians*?

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